

Executive Registry
10-4377

STAT

OSI: [] (29 May 1958)

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1424 33rd Street, N. W.
 Washington 7, D. C.
 29 May 1958

Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner
 President
 Associated Universities, Incorporated
 Suite 1750, Coliseum Tower
 10 Columbus Circle
 New York 19, New York

Dear Lloyd:

This is an addition to my letter of 8 May, concerning the one to you from Mr. Davidson, and will also reply to your 19 May letter to me.

Since I wrote you on 8 May, Mr. Davidson has kept the pot boiling hard and many things have occurred. One of the most important of these is an exchange of correspondence between him and Bob Robertson. I am enclosing a copy of the two letters they exchanged and recommend strongly that you employ the general tenor of Bob's letter in your reply to Davidson.

I am also writing the other three panel members, Alvarez, Goudsmit, and Page, and sending them copies of the Robertson/Davidson exchange. This is being done in anticipation of their being bombarded by Davidson as you and Bob have been. Perhaps a solid front erected between the panel members and Davidson will discourage him. He is taking far too much of all our time and effort.

In those cases where we have been required to correspond directly with Davidson, our reply has been merely one of acknowledging receipt and advising him that his queries had been forwarded to the Air Force for appropriate action.

Please contact me if you continue to be embroiled in this matter.

Best regards.

STAT

Enclosures:

1. Letter to Davidson
2. Letter to Robertson

STAT OSI: [redacted] (29 May 1958)

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee

1 - Assistant to the Director [redacted]

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1 - Office of Security

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1424 33rd Street, N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.
29 May 1958

Dear Dr. Alvarez:

Recently both Lloyd Berkner and Bob Robertson have been besieged by a Mr. Leon Davidson with questions relative to their activities on and the results of the UFO panel which convened in Washington early in 1953. In anticipation that you might soon be bombarded similarly, I am enclosing copies of an exchange of correspondence between Robertson and Davidson, and recommend strongly that you employ the general tenor of Bob's letter should the occasion arise.

In those cases where we have been required to correspond directly with Davidson, our reply has been merely one of acknowledging receipt and advising him that his queries had been forwarded to the Air Force for appropriate action.

Please advise me in the event you become caught up in this matter.

Best regards.

STAT

Enclosures:

1. Letter to Davidson
2. Letter to Robertson

Dr. Luis W. Alvarez
University of California
at Berkeley
Berkeley
California

STAT OSI: [REDACTED] (29 May 1958)

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1 - Assistant to the Director

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1424 33rd Street, N. W.
Washington 7, D. C.
29 May 1958

STAT

Dear Dr. Page:

Recently both Lloyd Berkner and Bob Robertson have been besieged by a Mr. Leon Davidson with questions relative to their activities on and the results of the UFO panel which convened in Washington early in 1953. In anticipation that you might soon be bombarded similarly, I am enclosing copies of an exchange of correspondence between Robertson and Davidson, and recommend strongly that you employ the general tenor of Bob's letter should the occasion arise.

In those cases where we have been required to correspond directly with Davidson, our reply has been merely one of acknowledging receipt and advising him that his queries had been forwarded to the Air Force for appropriate action.

Please advise me in the event you become caught up in this matter.

Best regards.

STAT

Enclosures:

1. Letter to Davidson
2. Letter to Robertson

Dr. Thornton Page
The Johns Hopkins University
Operations Research Office
Chevy Chase
Maryland

COPY

May 22, 1958

Mr. Leon Davidson
64 Prospect Street
White Plains, New York

Dear Mr. Davidson:

It has been my lot for some years past to be called in for advice by one or another of the executive departments, and I have so far as possible responded to those requests on which I thought I could be of assistance. It is thus I became involved in the panel on UFG.

My activities in this respect resulted in an evaluation of the threat, which was made and duly reported to the requesting authority. With that my active concern with the problem ended; our results and actions consequent thereto (including disclosure) became and, so far as I am concerned, remain the concern of that authority.

You must therefore excuse me from entering into a discussion of the questions you bring up in your letter of May 18.

Sincerely yours,

H. P. Robertson

HPR:m

C O P Y

41 Prospect Street
White Plains, N.Y.
Aug 13, 1958

Dr. W. P. Robertson
Dept. of Mathematical Physics
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Dear Dr. Robertson:

I am told by Mr. Max Miller, of Los Angeles, that you consider as substantially correct the account of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects in which you participated, as given in Chapter 16 of the book "The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects" by E. J. Ruppelt (Doubleday, Garden City, 1956). Since you were chairman of the Panel, according to the enclosed release, I hope that you will find it possible to enlighten me on two points.

[1] On p. 275 of Ruppelt's book, he quotes three "acceptable verdicts" which the Panel was apparently asked to limit itself to. Without asking whether these are word-for-word accurate, is it your general recollection that the Panel was requested to limit its conclusions along such lines? For example, if the Panel had felt that some "cover reports" were due to sighting of real earthly military vehicles or research devices, none of the three verdicts quoted by Ruppelt on p. 275 would have been appropriate. What would have been the Panel's recourse in such a case?

[2] On p. 291 of Ruppelt's book, he quotes a paragraph which he states was the first paragraph of a document containing the Panel's conclusions, and which he states that each Panel member signed. This paragraph begins: "We as a group do not believe that is impossible for some other celestial body to be inhabited by intelligent creatures. . . . However, there is nothing in all of the. . . ."

I note that there is no such paragraph in the enclosed "Report." It would appear that a second distinct Panel report is involved, which Ruppelt is describing, or else that the enclosed material was condensed from a somewhat lengthier report which your panel wrote and signed. As chairman, I wonder if you could recall for me whether any additional material was written and subscribed to by the Panel, as described by Ruppelt, which does not appear verbatim in the enclosed report.

If you desire that I furnish you with some of the detailed reasons for my concern in this matter, I would be most glad to do so.

Sincerely yours,

enc: annual Report

Leon Davidson